

Message Text

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15

ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-04

FRB-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-01 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15

STR-01 CEA-01 SWF-01 L-02 H-01 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

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R 150306Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8399

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PASS AGRICULTURE/FAS/BILL STARKEY/SUGAR & TROPICAL PRODUCTS

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR

SUBJECT: STATUS OF PHILIPPINE EMBARGO ON SUGAR EXPORTS

REF: TOFAS 118; MANILA 13283

1. IN ADDITION TO THE FIRST REPORTED REASON (TYPHOON DAMAGE ASSESSMENT) FOR EXPORT BAN ON SUGAR, NEWSPAPERS THIS WEEK REPORT THE INVESTIGATION OF POSSIBLE RAMPANT SMUGGLING ACTIVITIES BY THE NOTORIOUS SULU AND PALAWAN SMUGGLING TRADE.

2. INCOMPLETE AND PROBABLY INACCURATE NEWSPAPER REPORTS ON THE SMUGGLINGS ACCOUNT FOR 3 OR 4 INTERDICTIONS INVOLVING AN AMOUNT OF SUGAR TOTALING FROM 320 TO OVER 5,000 SHORT TONS DEPENDING ON WHICH NEWSPAPER ONE READS. THIS SUGGESTS THAT SMUGGLING ACTIVITY IS RELATIVELY INSIGNIFICANT BUT WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO OFFICIALLY CONFIRM THAT SMUGGLINGS ARE, IN FACT, INSIGNIFICANT. A THOROUGH INVENTORY OF STOCKS AT ALL LEVELS; MILLS, TRADERS, REFINERIES,
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AND EVERY OTHER VOLUME POSSESSOR OF SUGAR IS UNDERWAY.

THE CONTRABAND SUGAR HAS ALL BEEN 100 LB. BAGGED REFINED SUGAR.
ALL SMUGGLED QUANTITIES ARE THOUGHT TO COME FROM THE DOMESTIC
ALLOCATION OF 35 PERCENT OF THE
1974-75 HARVESTED CROP AND 1973-74 CARRYOVER DOMESTIC RESERVES.
THE INVENTORY IS BEING CONDUCTED BY THE MILITARY UNDER THE
DIRECTION OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

3. SUGAR QUOTA ADMINISTRATOR UNSON IS IN THE MAIN SUGAR
PRODUCTION AREAS OF THE VISAYAS ASSESSING THE SITUATION THIS
WEEK. PRIOR TO LEAVING FOR SUGAR AREAS THE ADMINISTRATOR
ADVISED THE AGATTACHE THAT HE HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN TO THE
PRESIDENT ABOUT FACING DEMURRAGE CHARGES ON 4 OF THE 5 SHIPS
BOOKED FOR HAULING SUGAR TO
THE U.S. MARKET AS WELL AS SEVERAL SHIPS BOOKED FOR THE WORLD
MARKET. UNSON'S FEELING IS EMBARGO WILL BE LIFTED SOON.

4. MEANWHILE, OUR ASSESSMENT OF TYPHOON DAMAGE CONTINUES TO BE
THAT DAMAGE WAS NEGLIGIBLE. THIS ASSESSMENT IS CONFIRMED BY
KNOWLEDGE SUGAR PEOPLE WHO HAVE RECENTLY TRAVELED IN THE MAIN
PRODUCTION AREAS. HOWEVER, CANE HARVESTING HAS BEEN SLOWED DOWN
BY RAIN.

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Message Attributes

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